

COLES HILL

Carver, North, Water, and Leyden Streets, Plymouth

Coles Hill is the burial place of Plymouth colonists who died during the harsh first winter of settlement in 1620–1621, known as the “starving time.” According to tradition, burials took place at night, with graves disguised so that Indians would not know how dangerously weakened the colony was. Of the several sites associated with Plymouth’s founding, only Coles Hill, named for a tavern keeper who had his business near Plymouth Bay, retains something of its original character. The hill slopes down to the bay, overlooking the traditional landing place of the *Mayflower*.